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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Sian Ch'un-chung Jih-pao.

COMPLETES DRAINAGE SYSTEM TO RECLAIM ALKALINE SOIL;
MILITARY UNITS PLANT COTTON IN SINKIANG

Recently, 106 li [one li is about 1/3 mile] of drainage ditches were reconstructed to leach the alkaline soil in Sinkiang's Chieh-shih Hsien. The drainage will open up 5,000 mou [one mou equals 1/6 acre] of new land in addition to permitting the recovery of 16,000 mou for cultivation. The work was accomplished in 4 days with 20,000 farmers participating.

The army garrison in Sinkiang has planted 35,000 mou of cotton. Last year's yield of 80 catties of ginned cotton per mou has popularized cotton cultivation in Sinkiang. The army plans to produce at least 1,400,000 catties of ginned cotton this year. This year a total of 960,000 mou is scheduled to be planted in cotton. Most of the seed used in the province were of Russian type.

REPAIRS DRAINAGE DITCH TO LEACH SOIL -- Sian Ch'un-chung Jih-pao, 24 May 51

The farmers of ch'us 1, 4, 5, and 6 of Chieh-shih Hsien in Sinkiang have completed the reconstruction of a drainage ditch for leaching high alkaline soils. The ditch is 106 li long, 9 feet wide, and 6 feet deep. The purpose of the ditch is to drain off the surface water which washes the soluble alkalies from the soil. The original ditch had not been repaired for 22 years, and the alkalinity of the soil has increased year by year due to the poor drainage. Over 16,000 mou of otherwise fertile farm land has been reduced to uselessness due to high alkalinity.

To fulfill the production program, the local government mobilized the farmers in the area for the reconstruction work by sending 81 cadres to the hsien on 18 April 1951. The farmers responded enthusiastically. The work, requiring 20,000 laborers was completed in 4 days.

The newly repaired drainage system will not only help to drain water from the 16,000 mou of alkaline soil, but will also open up 5,000 mou of heretofore noncultivated alkaline soils for cultivation next year. This water could be used later to irrigate a 10,000-mou area in the sixth ch'u after it has passed through a settling basin and the alkaline content has been precipitated.

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SINKIANG TROOPS PLANT 35,000 MOU OF COTTON -- Sian Ch'un-chung Jih-pao,
24 May 51

Military units of the Sinkiang Military District have completed their plan of sowing 35,000 mou of cotton. Before the liberation, cotton cultivation in Sinkiang was limited to scattered localities in the Turfan Depression and warm areas in southern Sinkiang. Because of unfavorable climatic conditions, very little cotton was planted in other parts of the province. The garrison troops popularized cotton planting last year by securing a good harvest. The yield of 80 market catties of ginned cotton per mou impressed the farmers and gave them confidence and enthusiasm for cotton planting.

The Sinkiang government assigned 960,000 mou to the civilians and military for cotton cultivation this year. The military units have sowed 35,000 mou with cotton seed, and 1,000-2,000 catties of fertilizer were applied to each mou. Each production unit of the garrison army in the district is instructed in cultivation methods. They, in turn, are now in the process of educating the troops. The army is striving for a planned production goal of 1,400,000 catties of ginned cotton this year. Most of the seed planted in the province this year was Russian-type early maturing cotton. This type produces long fibers and has a strong resistance to a cold climate, insects, and diseases. This type is especially suitable for northern Sinkiang.

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